



September is Weather Radio Awareness Month in Washington

By Ted Buehner, National Weather Service - Seattle/Tacoma

It is 3 am. You and your family are asleep. A tractor-trailer rolls over on a nearby roadway, spilling dangerous chemicals into the air. Local emergency management officials activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS), sending an emergency message for everyone in the path of the lethal airborne chemicals to evacuate immediately. The Seattle National Weather Service receives and retransmits this EAS message over NOAA Weather Radio in just a few minutes. But, you are asleep. How do you get this critical life-saving message in a timely manner?

NOAA Weather Radio helps protect lives and property with its warning alarm feature. However, many people do not know about this cost-effective life saving service. That is why Governor Gary Locke has proclaimed September as Weather Radio Awareness Month. The goal of the awareness campaign is to promote the use of weather radios until they become as common as smoke detectors in homes, businesses, schools, and other places where people gather.

The awareness campaign slogan is "Weather Radio is your personal 'Homeland Security' Warning System." NOAA Weather Radio not only airs immediate local flood and weather warning information, but also national EAS warning messages from sources like the White House or FEMA, state or regional EAS warning messages from the Governor or other state emergency

officials, and warning messages from county and municipal emergency officials. These warning messages include tsunami events, volcanic hazards, hazardous material releases, radiological hazards, secondary hazards from earthquakes and terrorism events, and Amber Alerts.



The campaign is a partnership with Washington State Emergency Management and the National Weather Service. During September, a number of weather radio manufacturers and retailers are offering consumer incentives. The incentives and more information about weather radio are available through the campaign's host web site from Washington State Emergency Management at www.emd.wa.gov.

On the web site's "Where to Get Weather Radios?" link, each manufacturer or retailer displays their weather radio models, with specific features and prices.

NOAA Weather Radio is a life-saver for about the cost of a pair of shoes. For more information about Weather Radio Awareness Month, visit www.emd.wa.gov, or the National Weather Service in Seattle at 206-526-6087 during business hours.

Eastside Arts Coalition Presents:

Eastside Arts Alive! The Eastside's Biggest Arts Festival

For the first time ever, more than 30 arts groups from all over the Eastside are teaming up to create a festival of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. From Friday, October 1

through Sunday, October 3, Eastside Arts Alive! will take over the Kirkland Performance Center and Bellevue's Theatre at Meydenbauer to present a range of live performances for the entire family.

Along with performances by Redmond's own Washington Academy of Performing Arts and SecondStory Repertory, you can sample a bit of dance from Ballet Bellevue or Pacific Northwest Ballet, jazz from Music Works Northwest or French music by the Cascadian Chorale, and scenes from the Village Theatre. You can even participate in a live hands-on demonstration of a bronze foundry by the Art-Zones program of Bellevue Community College and create your own blazing hot sculpture to take home!

Performances will take place throughout the weekend. Each day will be divided into 2½-hour sessions, during which four different groups will perform. Audiences can purchase tickets to any session for just \$8 per person (\$6 for students/seniors); get a Family Pass for \$20, good for up to two adults and two students; or buy a \$25 Arts Alive Pass to get into any venue, any time. Special shorter blocks for families will feature children's entertainment too.

Eastside Arts Alive! is a grand-scale project created by the Eastside Arts Coalition (EAC), which works to raise the profile of arts groups on this side of the bridge. The EAC plans to make this an annual event.

For tickets and more information, please call the Kirkland Performance Center box office at 425-893-9900 or visit www.kpcenter.org. Or, call Ticket Window at 206-325-6500 or www.ticketwindowonline.com.

